



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P4

AUG 15 2016

Mr. Gordon Jenkins
President
NATO Veterans Organization of Canada
35 Biscayne Crescent
Ottawa, Ontario
K2E 5R9

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the long-term care needs of those who have selflessly served our country and for your continued advocacy on this important issue.

It is always difficult to hear about a Veteran who does not feel he or she is being supported. The well-being of every Veteran is a serious matter and one that I do not take lightly. Although I appreciate your concern for Mr. Petter Blindheim, Mr. Donald Osborne and Mr. Charles Belzile, under the terms of the *Privacy Act*, I cannot release any personal information about them without the appropriate consent. That being said, I hope that the following information is helpful.

Veterans Affairs Canada is committed to meeting the long-term-care needs of any Canadian Armed Forces Veteran—regardless of when he or she served—who requires support as the result of a service-related disability. As you are aware, the Department can provide long-term-care support in two settings: facilities with contract beds, such as the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building in Halifax, that allow for the priority access of Second World War and Korean War Veterans and institutions with community beds that are available to all provincial residents, including Veterans. In addition, Veterans may be eligible for home care services under the Veterans Independence Program, which can help them to stay self-sufficient in their own residence for as long as possible.

When we became aware of the challenges faced by Veterans in accessing health care, specifically in Nova Scotia, Veterans Affairs Canada worked very closely with members of Parliament and the Nova Scotia Health Authority to find a solution that ensures the welfare of our Veterans.

I am pleased to tell you that on June 24, 2016, we announced a new agreement with the Nova Scotia Health Authority to expand access to long-term care at Camp Hill: Veterans who are eligible for long-term-care support in a community bed will now have preferred access to available beds at the facility.

.../2

Canada

Although this new arrangement is specific to Camp Hill, agreements and extensions to other long-term-care facilities across the country are also under review, and we hope to replicate our success in Nova Scotia.

Again, thank you for writing. I always welcome your valuable insights on the priority issues facing Veterans and their families, and I look forward to our continued collaboration to ensure that they receive the care, compassion and respect they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'K. Hehr', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Kent Hehr, PC, MP